

KEEPING PACE WITH SCIENCE AND POLICY – OPP'S PROPOSED PESTICIDE DATA REQUIREMENTS

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For details: www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/data.htm

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What are data requirements for pesticides? Before any pesticide can be registered for sale and use in the U.S., the applicant for registration must provide information showing the product can be used without posing unreasonable risk to human health and the environment



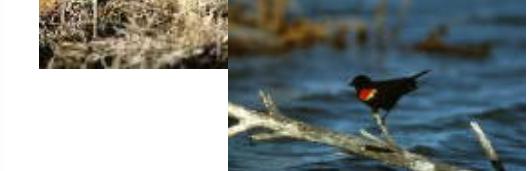
Why does EPA require this data? With the information, EPA evaluates: the potential for adverse human health effects; how the pesticide affects animal and plants; and what happens to the pesticide in water, soil, and air.

New Science

New Statutes

Office of Pesticide Programs has begun a series of rulemakings to keep pace with the science and policy decisions

Nontarget organism protections. EPA uses a tiered system of ecological effects testing to assess potential risks to: aquatic & terrestrial vertebrates; invertebrates, and plants. The hierarchy ranges from basic laboratory tests to applied field tests.



Example: Besides requiring data on mallard ducks or bobwhite quail, EPA might require data on songbirds such as the red-winged blackbird. Data collected over 10 years indicated that songbirds are more sensitive than mallards or bobwhite quail to pesticides.

Environmental fate: EPA might require a groundwater monitoring study for terrestrial and forestry uses of pesticides if the data indicate that the pesticide and/or its degradates may leach into groundwater.

Human health protections. The Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 set a tougher standard for pesticide use on food. EPA is required to consider all non-occupational sources of exposure, including drinking water and residential exposure. The Act requires evaluation of exposure to other pesticides with a common mechanism of toxicity and aggregate exposure, not just dietary routes.



Because some pesticides may be immunosuppressive, EPA proposes to require immunotoxicity testing to evaluate any adverse effects on the immune system.

FIRST STEPS:

Proposed rule for conventional pesticides published March 11, 2005

Workshop explaining proposed rule May 3-4, 2005

Proposed rules for microbials, biochemicals, and antimicrobials under development

NEXT STEPS:



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